



Maitland Sport & Recreation News

Welcome to the first edition of the Maitland Sport and Recreation Newsletter prepared by the Maitland Sports and Recreation Advisory Board. The Maitland Sport and Recreation Newsletter will act as an important communication tool to convey vital Council information to the recreation community and help our community focus on physical activity, safety and enjoyment of the Maitland environment. This edition is full of information about grants, training opportunities and what's happening in the parks and recreation facilities of Maitland. It is anticipated that this newsletter will grow and be distributed every two months. The opportunity will be provided for members of the community to provide input and direction for the newsletter. We look forward to your continued involvement and input with the Maitland Sport and Recreation Newsletter.

Cr Henry Meskauskas
Chairman
Maitland Sport & Recreation Advisory Board

Sporting Grants

Below is a list of some of the grants that are available to sporting organisations to further improve facilities and infrastructure at their local facility.

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT & RECREATION

Capital Assistance Program

The Capital assistance program (CAP) assists Local Government Authorities and not for profit organisations to develop community orientated local sporting and recreational facilities.

Opens: 31 March Closes: 31 May

Regional Sports Facility Program:

Funds are used to enhance the range, availability and quality of sport and recreational facilities

throughout NSW that meet the needs of both talented and elite athletes and the general community.

Opens: 30 June Closes: 31 August 2006

Country Athletics Scheme:

The Country Athletes Scheme is designed to assist talented young athletes from country areas of NSW access training, coaching and competitions similar to those enjoyed by athletes from the city.

Who is eligible to apply?

Athletes eligible to apply for the Country Athletes Scheme must meet each of these criteria:

- be 17 years of age or under as at the 31 December
- be competing at state-age level in their sport
- be permanent residents of NSW
- reside more than 80km radial distance from the old Sydney GPO; and
- be registered, affiliated or have reciprocal rights with the recognised state body for the sport in NSW

Opens: 1 November Closes: 31 December

FOSTER'S COMMUNITY GRANTS

Foster's Community Grants will support projects in our three core focus areas: wellness, culture and the environment. We define "wellness" as both physical and mental health, "culture" as artistic, sporting and educational activities and "environment" as all aspects of the natural environment.

Opens: 1 August Closes: 29 September



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Aquatic Facilities Review

One of the recommendations from the Maitland Recreation & open Space Strategy 2004, was to investigate the feasibility of providing a venue for year-round swimming. Surveys were made available at local news agencies, Council's two swimming pools, on Council's website and via mail on request. Over 520 surveys were returned and are to be shortly collated to gauge public opinion. Respondents were asked to rate features of the pools and what they would like to see improved at the pools. Stay tuned for future updates.



NSW Sporting Injuries Committee—Safe Sport Seminar

On Wednesday 7th June 2006, Maitland City Council in conjunction with the Maitland Sports & Recreation Advisory Board will be hosting Safe Sport Seminar. Topics the seminar will cover include:

- Grass roots sport and the Law;
- Risk Management;
- Sports Insurance;
- The safer sport program; and
- Sports Rage

The seminar is free and anyone interested should Contact Luke Erskine on 4934 9700 to register their interest. Tickets are strictly limited and will be allocated on a first in first served basis.

Protecting your volunteers

There is a common misconception amongst volunteer based organisations about the risk of being personally sued when "providing a community service" goes wrong.

However legislation has been in place for the last two years that protects volunteers from this outcome.

The legislation defines a volunteer as an individual who provides a service in relation to community work on a voluntary basis (which includes sport and recreation). A volunteer acting for an incorporated community organisation cannot be held liable in any civil proceeding for anything done or not done in good faith while providing a service in relation to community work organised by a community organisation.

This protection only applies where the volunteer is acting within the scope of their allocated task but does not apply if the volunteer's ability to carry out the work was impaired by drugs or alcohol.

This means that volunteers acting responsibly within organised sport and recreation can continue to play their valuable roles without being concerned about being personally sued.

Is it time you updated the "job descriptions" for your volunteers?

Name this Newsletter

Do you have a creative name for our newsletter?

Send your ideas to:

recreation@maitland.nsw.gov.au or care of Maitland City Council at PO Box 220 Maitland NSW 2320.

Articles for this Newsletter

Do you have an article or wish to add something for the next issue? Send your ideas to: recreation@maitland.nsw.gov.au or care of Maitland City Council at PO Box 220 Maitland NSW 2320.